

awarded to a claimant in a product liability action that is subject to this title shall not exceed 3 times the sum of the amounts described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of such section.”.

BYRD AMENDMENT NO. 689

(Ordered to lie on the table.)

Mr. BYRD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to amendment No. 596 proposed by Mr. GORTON to the bill H.R. 956, *supra*, as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert

Since, the United States and Japan have a long and important relationship which serves as an anchor of peace and stability in the Pacific region;

Since, the overall balance in the U.S.-Japan relationship has been eroded as a result of persistent and large trade deficits which are the result of practices and regulations which have substantially blocked legitimate access of American products to the Japanese market;

Since, the current account trade deficit with Japan in 1994 reached an historic high level of \$66 billion, of which \$37 billion, or 56 percent, is attributed to imbalances in the automobile sector, and of which \$12.8 billion is attributable to auto parts flows;

Since, in July, 1993, the Administration reached a broad accord with the Government of Japan, called the “United States-Japan Framework for a New Economic Partnership”, which established automotive trade regulations as one of 5 priority areas for negotiations, to seek market-opening arrangements based on objective criteria and which would result in objective progress;

Since, a healthy American automobile industry is of central importance to the American economy, and to the capability of the United States to fulfill its commitments to remain as an engaged, deployed, Pacific power;

Since, after 18 months of negotiations with the Japanese, beginning in September 1993, the U.S. Trade Representative concluded that no progress had been achieved, leaving the auto parts market in Japan “virtually closed”;

Since, in October, 1994, the United States initiated an investigation under Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974 into the Japanese auto parts market, which could result in the imposition of trade sanctions on a variety of Japanese imports into the United States unless measurable progress is made in penetrating the Japanese auto parts market;

Since, negotiations are continuing between the United States and Japan to achieve lasting market-opening arrangements into the Japanese automobile and parts sector;

Now, therefore, be it

Declared, That it is the Sense of the Senate that—

(1) the Senate supports the efforts of the President to continue to strongly press the Government of Japan, through bilateral negotiations under the agreed “Framework for a New Economic Partnership,” for sharp reductions in the trade imbalances in automotive sales and parts through the elimination of unfair and restrictive Japanese market-closing practices and regulations; and

(2) If such results-oriented negotiations are not concluded satisfactorily, appropriate and reasonable measures, up to and including trade sanctions, should be imposed in accordance with Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974; and

(3) The Senate is prepared to fully support any such measures that might be taken

against Japanese products, including appropriate legislation.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

Mr. COHEN. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Special Committee on Aging will hold a hearing on Thursday, May 11, 1995, at 9:30 a.m., in room 562 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building. The subject of the hearing is long-term care financing.

NOTICES OF HEARING CHANGE

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that the nomination of Charles William Burton to be a member of the Board of Directors of the U.S. Enrichment Corporation will not be considered on Wednesday, May 10, 1995, as previously announced.

For further information, please call Camille Heninger at (202) 224-5070.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet on Thursday, May 4, 1995, at 2 p.m. in closed/open session to receive testimony on the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization's fiscal year 1996 budget request and the future years defense program; and on the future of the ABM Treaty.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Finance Committee be permitted to meet Thursday, May 4, 1995, at 9:30 a.m. in room SD-215, to conduct a hearing on the Vaccines for Children Program.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 4, 1995, at 10 a.m. to hear testimony on China: Illegal Trade in Human Body Parts.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 4, 1995, at 2 p.m. to hold a hearing on judicial nominees.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Labor and Human Resources be authorized to meet for a hearing on primary Health Care Programs, during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 4, 1995, at 9 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Governmental Affairs, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 4, 1995 to hold hearings on the Navy T-AO-187 *Kaiser* class oiler contract.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOUSING OPPORTUNITY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Housing Opportunity and Community Development of the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 4, 1995, to conduct a hearing on Federal Housing Administration Reform.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND SPACE

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Science, Technology, and Space of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Technology be authorized to meet on May 4, 1995, on High Performance Computing and Communications and the World Wide Web at 10 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SUPERFUND, WASTE CONTROL, AND RISK ASSESSMENT

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Superfund, Waste Control, and Risk Assessment be granted permission to conduct an oversight hearing Thursday, May 4, at 9 a.m., regarding the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON TERRORISM, TECHNOLOGY, AND GOVERNMENT INFORMATION

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Terrorism, Technology, and Government Information of the Committee on the Judiciary, be authorized to hold a hearing during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 4, 1995, to consider “Counter-Terrorism Legislation.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

OKLAHOMA CITY BOMBING

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to express my sincere condolences to the families and friends who lost their loved ones in the horrible terrorist act which took place in Oklahoma City, OK, on April 19, 1995. My prayers are with the victims, with those who lost loved ones, and with those who simply had to suffer through the agony of uncertainty. And, like every Member of this Senate, I am determined to ensure that those terrorists who committed this crime will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

Our top priority today and always ought to be the protection and safety of all the citizens of our country. Though we in the Senate will, as we already have, differ about the role of the Federal Government and the scope of Congress' authority, I think we can all agree that the first obligation of the Government is to protect its citizens from harm. We must do everything we rightfully can to prevent future tragedies of this sort and to see to it that the perpetrators of this terrible act are brought to justice.

One hope I have is that, in the process of focusing on the tragic incident in Oklahoma City involving one type of crime, we don't lose sight of the rising tide of all violent crime in this country. It did not take the massive destruction of this bombing to make violence a major problem in America. The rate of violent crime is increasing and will continue to do so if we do not put a stop to it now. Thus, it is even more urgent that government at all levels—Federal, State, and local—act accordingly to make sure that all types of criminal violence are prevented, or, that when these acts occur, to see to it that the responsible parties are severely punished for their actions.

In my view, there is a continuum in our society, with the rights of criminals on one end, and the rights of both victims of crime and the law-abiding on the other. More rights for criminals ineluctably translates to fewer rights for victims. I believe the pendulum has swung too far, and for too long, toward the right of criminals. It is time for us to shift things in the direction of law-abiding citizens and the victims of crime.

Despite our best efforts, we must recognize that, no matter what we do, we will never be able to eradicate crime, nor, though we would like to, eliminate the possibility of a violent fanatic detonating a fertilizer-based bomb. So long as human nature remains imperfect there are going to be murderers, there are going to be rapists, there are going to be violent fanatics. Prevention is critical, and all appropriate tools should be provided to law enforcement officials to aid their preemptory efforts. But what is also important is the response which our criminal justice system is able to muster after the fact.

In short, we must ensure that the perpetrators of all criminal acts in this country are—as the President promised in this case—brought to swift and certain justice. Legal reforms that would permit the rapid apprehension, trial, and punishment of the perpetrators of crime—all crimes—would go a long way toward preventing future such crimes and assuring the victims that justice will be done.

I believe, with regard to Oklahoma City that what most affects us all is seeing the families of the victims. Like most Americans, I want to see justice for those families prevail. I would like to be able to assure those families that they will not have to suffer through a 9-month trial on TV—including, for example, several weeks devoted to selecting the perfect, dispassionate and adequately uninformed jury. And I would like to be able to tell those families that they will not then have to endure years upon years of repetitive trials and appeals, forcing them to relive over and over the nightmare of the past weeks. But I cannot.

Regrettably, our current system is all too often exploited by the guilty—at the expense of the innocent. That is why, as we move ahead with any proposed antiterrorist legislation as well as with the Senate Republican crime bill, S. 3, the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Improvement Act of 1995, I hope we will seek to pass legislation which does put the rights of victims and law-abiding citizens first—where they belong.

Mr. President, on another note, I would like to also shed light on an unfortunate incident which took place during the aftermath of the bombing in Oklahoma City. Immediately after the bombing, many so-called experts and news media outlets rushed to the judgment that this attack was most probably the result of, "Islamic radical fundamentalist terrorists from the Middle East." This inaccurate and prematurely reached conclusion did great damage to the millions of loyal Arab- and Moslem-Americans in the United States, producing a wave of anti-Moslem, anti-Arab hysteria in the days after the bombing. The windows of a mosque in Oklahoma City were shattered by bullets in the days after the bombing, and death threats were called in to many mosques across the United States—including several in my home State of Michigan. In addition, many Arab- and Moslem-American students were harassed at their schools and universities. All of these unfortunate incidents could have been avoided had some in the media and their so-called terrorism experts refrained from jumping to such unsubstantiated conclusions.

The news media has a clear duty to the American people to report allegations of this type responsibly. The media has received many compliments about its coverage of Oklahoma City, much of it deserved. However, those outlets which failed to show proper re-

straint or which countenanced wildly speculative finger-pointing should, I believe, extend an apology to the Arab- and Moslem-American communities for the damage done to the hardworking individuals and families that comprise them. The American-Moslem community has donated \$22,500 to assist the families of the victims of the bombing in Oklahoma City—a story which I hope the media will also be reporting.

That said, I want to reemphasize my comments regarding this horrible tragedy in Oklahoma. Our criminal law enforcement community needs to have the appropriate tools for prevention and punishment. If we, in the Senate, are able to pass the appropriate legislation which will assist the law enforcement officials to effectively combat crime, then perhaps criminals will be deterred from committing another tragic Oklahoma City incident anywhere in the United States. Amidst all the pain, we may have learned a very valuable lesson from this incident—the worst terrorist crime in our Nation's history. The painful lesson learned may be that Oklahoma City is a wake-up call to all Americans that we desperately need to reform our criminal laws.●

OPEN MARKETS AND FAIR TRADE ACT OF 1995

• Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I seek to have placed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a copy of the "Open Markets and Fair Trade Act of 1995," S. 756, that was formally submitted for the RECORD yesterday, May 3, 1995, but which was not printed in full.

The "Open Markets and Fair Trade Act of 1995," will evaluate the current conditions of markets around the world for American products and instigate a process of negotiating access to those markets. It also gives the President and Congress a new tool to use in those negotiations—the threat of reciprocal trade action. Basically the bill tells our trading partners that if they refuse to give our products reasonable market access, we may impose the same kind of restrictions on their products.

Mr. President, this bill was written in response to a problem that persists year after year. I am speaking, of course, of our trade deficit, which is out of control. Certainly, we are making progress on some micro-economic levels, and the Clinton Administration has hammered out more than 70 different trade agreements over the last two-plus years—14 with Japan alone. These are helping some industries, some workers, and some parts of our economy. But they have done nothing to shrink the trade deficit. Clearly, more must be done.

Mr. President, this bill does not single out any one country. It is designed to pry open markets wherever they're closed, wherever in the world American products are denied access. This bill